NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-0312 MARCH 6, 1976
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WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE U.S.

ANNCR:

AMERICAN CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS IS MANIFESTING ITSELF IN VARIOUS WAYS. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES THIS ISSUE.

VOICE:

AT THE CLOSING OF THE FIVE-WEEK UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING IN GENEVA FRIDAY, AMERICAN DELEGATE LEONARD GARMENT CALLED THE COMMISSION'S WORK A TRAVESTY. HIS ATTACK AT LEAST PARTIALLY WAS TOUCHED OFF WHEN THE COMMISSION PUT OFF ACTION FOR A YEAR ON A PROPOSAL INITIATED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION AND BACKED BY BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND ITALY. IT WOULD CALL FOR A WORLDWIDE AMNESTY FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE FIVE-NATION PROPOSAL IS SIMILAR TO ANOTHER THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED TO THE LAST U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT WITHDREW WHEN DELEGATES APPROVED SEVERAL AMENDMENTS THAT WATERED IT DOWN.

AMERICAN FRUSTRATION OVER THE ATTITUDES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES FOUND EXPRESSION HERE IN WASHINGTON ON A LESS OFFICIAL BASIS THURSDAY. THE AMERICAN MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SAID HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT RE-APPOINTMENT AT THE END OF HIS FOUR-YEAR TERM IN JUNE. HIS URUGUAYAN AND ARGENTINE COUNTERPARTS ANNOUNCED SIMILAR DECISIONS. (OPT) UNDER O.A.S. RULES, THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, WHILE APPOINTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS, SERVE AS INDIVIDUALS. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THEY ARE AUTOMATICALLY RE-APPOINTED. (END OPT) IN STATEMENTS MADE TO A REPORTER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST, ALL THREE COMMISSION MEMBERS INDICATED BITTER

DISAPPOINTMENT OVER INACTION BY THE O.A.S. ON THE ISSUE OF CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

INVESTIGATIONS BY BOTH THE U.N. AND O.A.S. HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES ON THE SITUATION IN CHILE PRODUCED REPORTS CHARGING THE MILITARY JUNTA WITH FLAGRANT, INSTITUTIONALIZED VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILEAN CIVILIANS WHO OPPOSE THE JUNTA. CHILE HAS FLATLY DENIED THOSE CHARGES. AND IT HAS ALSO REJECTED SIMILAR FINDINGS BY SUCH WIDELY-RESPECTED UNOFFICIAL GROUPS AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

THE THREE O.A.S. COMMISSION MEMBERS SAID THAT THE BRAZILIAN AND CHILEAN MEMBERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY VOTED AGAINST ACTION BY THE REGIONAL GROUP CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

OF COURSE, THIS MANIFESTATION OF A DOUBLE STANDARD OR SELECTIVE MORALITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS MORE THAN MATCHED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE EAST EUROPEAN AND SOVIET DELEGATES IN THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR AND NOW IN THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IT IS PARTICULARLY IRONIC THAT THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE SOVIET UNION, SIGNERS OF THE HELSINKI DECLARATION'S PROVISIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SHOULD HAVE PURSUED SUCH A COURSE. BUT GIVEN THE PLIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF DISSIDENTS THERE, THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE AMERICAN INITIATIVES ON AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

IN ANY CASE, AMERICAN DELEGATE GARMENT'S SHARP LANGUAGE IN CRITICISM OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS ENTIRELY IN TUNE WITH THE POSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE SENTIMENTS OF AN INCREASINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS.

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